

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01

NEA-10 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /093 W

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O P 201117Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0058

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 17456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO, TH

SUBJ: DISSOLUTION OF SEATO

REF: STATE 196461

1. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING 20 AUGUST CONSIDERED THE SUBJECT OF A SEATO PHASE-OUT IN RESPONSE TO THE AUSTRALIAN REPS REQUEST THAT THE SEC GEN PREPARE A DOCUMENT SETTING FORTH PROPOSALS FOR CLOSING DOWN SEATO WHICH COULD BE PLACED BEFORE THE COUNCIL MINISTERS ON 24 SEPTEMBER.

2. THAI REP AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL BUT WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR HE WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PHYSICAL PHASE-OUT OF THE ORGANIZATION BUT NOT THE MANILA TREATY. THE RTG WOULD WANT TO SEE DELINEATED IN THE PAPER THOSE USEFUL SEATO FUNCTIONS WHICH COULD BE RETAINED OR TRANSFERRED TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

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3. US REP OBSERVED THE DIFFICULTY FACING THE SEATO

SECRETARIAT IN PREPARING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO COVER THE PHASING OUT AND TRANSFER OF SEATO FUNCTIONS IN THE TIME AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING. THE UK REP ECHOED THIS VIEW.

4. THE SEC GEN GAVE HIS JUDGMENT ON THE TECHNICAL, PROFESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACTORS WHICH MILITATED AGAINST A RAPID SEATO PHASE-DOWN AND SUGGESTED THAT A SYSTEMATIC ORDERLY STAGE-DOWN WOULD TAKE AT LEAST TWO YEARS. SEC GEN SAID TIME WAS INSUFFICIENT FOR HIS STAFF TO PRODUCE AN ADEQUATE IN-DEPTH FEASIBILITY STUDY BY 24 SEPTEMBER.

5. AUSTRALIAN REP REDEFINED HIS INITIAL STATEMENT AND SAID HIS PROPOSAL WAS ONLY FOR A BROAD WORKING PAPER OUTLINING THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND PROVIDING A TENTATIVE TIME FRAME FOR THE SEATO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO CONSIDER. THIS RENDITION SATISFIED THE COUNCIL REPS AND THE SEC GEN AGREED TO PROVIDE AN OUTLINE PAPER AND REQUESTED THE HELP OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ACTING THROUGH THEIR PWG MEMBER. COUNCIL REPS CONCURRED.

6. COMMENT: THE AUSTRALIAN REPS APPROACH WAS Milder THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED AND THE GENRAL DISCUSSION WAS LOW KEY. ALL MEMBERS SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF ABRUPTLY TERMINATING SEATO.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, EXPULSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO17456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750287-1078
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750833/aaaabcjk.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 196461
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISSOLUTION OF SEATO
TAGS: PORG, TH, AS, SEATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006